

The Folk-Lore of China is not only a study of great interest in itself, but the mass of materials it contains will, after careful collection and discrimination, be of great scientific value for purposes of comparative Folk-Lore. No attempt has ever been made to deal with this subject as a whole. What little has been written has, with a few notable exceptions, been generally of a local character. What is now proposed is to endeavour to obtain, as far as possible, collections of the lore peculiar to the different parts of China, and its dependencies. Each collection, while in itself highly instructive, will be chiefly important as forming a link in the chain of facts from which a general account of the Folk-Lore of China may be deduced. If willing helpers can be found to assist in the work of collection, the success of the scheme is ensured. Failure can only result from want of co-operation and support. It is, therefore, earnestly hoped that all will be ready to give their aid either by collecting and contributing themselves or by inducing others to do so.

As a first step towards obtaining a collection of Chinese Folk-Lore as complete as possible, and with a view to uniformity of action, I enclose, herewith in English and Chinese an arrangement of the subjects of Folk-Lore under four main divisions, sub-divided into minor groups. This arrangement has been borrowed from the publications of the Folk-Lore Society as appearing to be the one best adapted to China, though no doubt modifications and additions will suggest themselves to individual collectors. It is hoped, however, that it will serve as a useful guide and form a basis on which may be built a substantial structure of facts and generalisations.

The Chinese version is intended for circulation among the Chinese who, experience shows, evince a great interest in the subject when once they comprehend its aims and objects. Under the minor groups, examples have been given in order to facilitate inquiry.

My excuse for addressing you and asking your assistance is that, as you are interested in, as well as well acquainted with, the customs and manners of the Chinese, it seemed not unlikely that you would be willing to co-operate in the fur-

therance of a scheme which cannot fail to throw light on the inner life and thoughts of the Chinese and to form a valuable addition to the Science of Folk-Lore.

Contributions of all kinds will be most welcome and fully acknowledged, and, if contributors wish, can be published in the columns of the *China Review* or the *Folk-Lore Journal*, in which case each contributor will be furnished with copies of his contribution in print. With regard to contributions from natives, I shall be most happy to undertake the translation of them, should it be so desired.

All communications should be addressed to the undersigned.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

J. H. STEWART-LOCKHART,
Local Secretary, Folk-Lore Society.

FOLK-LORE.

SUBJECTS OF INVESTIGATION.

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| 1. Traditional Narratives. | 3. Superstition, Beliefs and Practices. |
| (a) Folk Tales. | (a) Goblindom. |
| (b) Hero Tales. | (b) Witchcraft. |
| (c) Ballads and Songs. | (c) Astrology. |
| (d) Place Legends and Traditions. | (d) Superstitions connected with Material Things. |
| 2. Traditional Customs. | 4. Folk Sayings. |
| (a) Local Customs. | (a) Proverbs. |
| (b) Festival Customs. | (b) Old Saws. |
| (c) Ceremonial Customs. | (c) Jingles, Nursery Rhymes. |
| (d) Games. | (d) Nicknames. |
| | (e) Riddles. |